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Y. Vinos
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~~AUTOMATIC HOT FOOD VENDING MACHINE~~

~~This is a substitute for application Serial no. 06/928,817, now abandoned.~~

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The unattended machine has a hopper for holding an
inventory of uniformly-sized, individual, frozen or
refrigerated portions of food and for maintaining the
inventory in a frozen or refrigerated condition.
10 Insertion into the machine of a genuine dollar bill is
verified by electro-optical means which signal control
and monitor means to initiate food preparation by
causing a microwave oven below the hopper to open and
rotate into a food-receiving position below a dispenser,
located below the hopper, which then dispenses an
individual portion of food into the oven by gravity.
15 The oven then rotates to a horizontal cooking position
and closes its door, where the portion is heated by
microwave energy for a pre-determined length of time.
Upon completion of heating, the oven door is opened and
the oven tilted downward and the heated portion of food
20 is dispensed by gravity through an opening or port in
the machine. Means are provided for monitoring progress
of the preparation and delivery cycle and for refunding
purchase price in the event the machine is empty or a
malfunction occurs. Additionally, the machine may be
25 adapted for monitoring and recording machine status and
for notifying a remote location telephonically of
problems or maintenance needs.